



County of El Dorado Veteran Affairs Commission

130 Placerville Drive
Placerville CA 95667

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2016 @ 1130 hours

Veteran's Memorial Building
130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: - 1201 hrs.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – (Present) (Absent) (Excused Absence)

- (EA) I – Commissioner Todd Smith
- (P) I - Alternate Jack Winhall
- (P) II – Commissioner Tim Thompson
- (P) II – Alternate Edgar “Bud” Brown
- (P) III - Commissioner Kurt Raffetto
- (EA) III - Alternate Richard Buchanan
- (P) IV – Commissioner Bill Scrivani
- (EA) IV – Alternate Amanda Williams
- (P) V – Commissioner Robert Sweatt
- (P) V – Alternate Phillip Houseworth
- (P) William E. Schultz, Interim Director, El Dorado County Department of Veteran Affairs
- (P) Edward Swanson, Secretary Ex-Officio

Public Testimony will be received on each agenda item as it is called. Principal party on each side of an issue (where applicable) is allocated 10 minutes to speak, individual comments are limited to 3 minutes, and individuals speaking for a group are allocated 5 minutes. Matters not on the agenda may be addressed by the general public during the Open Forum. Public comments during Open Forum are limited to three minutes per person. The Commission reserves the right to waive said rules by a majority vote.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the El Dorado County Veteran Affairs Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for inspection during normal business hours in the public viewing packet located in the foyer of the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville or in the Secretary Ex-Officio (County Veteran Services Officer) El Dorado County Department of Veteran Affairs located at the same address. Such documents are also available on the El Dorado County Department of Veteran Affairs website at www.edcgov.us/veterans subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

The Commission is concerned that written information submitted to the Commission the day of the Commission meeting may not receive the attention it deserves. The Secretary Ex-Officio cannot guarantee that any FAX, email, or mail received the day of the meeting will be delivered to the Commission prior to action on the subject matter.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME:

Ken Thurman, Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, interested serving the veteran community.

PUBLIC FORUM:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 14, 2016, typo correction under Ad Hoc, approved.

SECRETARY EX-OFFICIO REPORT:

- CAL-VET: Submitted subvention claim on July 29, 2016.
- VA Regional Office: National outstanding claims 380,286; Oakland Regional Office has 11,341 outstanding claims, NOD's 7,121, Form-9 980. Comparison to other Regional offices – St. Petersburg Florida 26,643; Waco TX 15,600; Houston TX 13,600; Georgia 15,999; South Carolina 10,500.
- County Department Veteran Affairs: Recent hired an Extra Help Temporary position to assist with scanning backlog.
- Commission Fund Balance: \$4,783.42

“Representing the Interests of El Dorado County's Veterans, their Dependents, and Survivors.”

- Intern Update: Lance Poinsett, Sr. Veterans Service Representative reports intern has completed the 1st Phase of the Cal-Vet Academy (July 11-13, 2016); has weekly intern training each Monday morning and the intern is preparing for the 2nd Phase of Cal-Vet Academy with the accreditation testing scheduled on September 22-23, 2016. Brief recap, TOT contributed \$15,600 for 25 hours weekly; EDCVA contributed \$4,992 for 7 hours weekly for a combined 32 hours weekly for 52 weeks.

COMMISSION MATTERS:

- **TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) Committee**

Mini Grant Cycle #1: Recommend approval and award two Mini Grant applications for Cycle #1 totaling \$7,300. Motion: Phillip Houseworth; 2nd Bud Brown, Approved.

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| Military Family Support Group | \$3,500 |
| Only Kindness Inc. DBA Community Resource Center | \$3,800 |
| Big Brother/Big Sisters | 0 |
| Remember-A-Vet | 0 |

Clarification of the El Dorado Community Found Funding Agreement #336-F1511 and Mini Grant Timeline Cycles: Funding Agreement includes Veterans Memorial Monument, Folsom Lake College/El Dorado Center Student Veteran Resource Center Grant, and Snowline Hospice for Veterans Care Program. Two Mini Grant Cycles: Cycle #1 begins June to receive, July to review and August to award. Cycle #2 begins October to receive, November to review and December to award.

- **AD HOC** (Veteran Memorial Building – Veterans Building House Council): Building Manager Update Bill Schultz reports that building manager, Dave Davidson retired in May and Sean Conley-Widing is the current building manager; all building manager assistance concerning the Veterans Memorial Building is strictly a volunteer effort. The building scheduling calendar is online at edcvmb.org. The garden area surround the flag pole was an Eagle Scout project coordinated with El Dorado County Master Gardener. The house council meets on the first Thursday of the month, all are invited. The house council has prepared a budget and submitted to Bill Schutz for submission to the CAO. The county and House Council are currently in the draft review of the tentative agreement. The House Council has been an official 501(c)(3) and they report that a lot of people use this building for nothing, some are veteran groups but a few are not, the new agreement will outline the use of the building and use of public funds. The county has provided funds for the kitchen remodel and flooring, hopefully the new agreement will answer a lot of questions and financial solutions.
- David Zelinsky, American Legion Service Officer: This report sent by email, currently out of country; service officer back-up for emergencies is Rich Meagher of VFW Post 10165 @ (530) 957-1069.

Veterans Justice Outreach: The dedication and professionalism of Robin McMillan of Probation and Kimberly Higgins at VJO has been impressive and the new team looks solid.

Vet Treatment Court (VTC): Referral from EDC Veteran Affairs, eligibility under review but did not qualify for VTC because he had already pleaded guilty. Apparently, getting into VTC normally is part of the plea bargain process, so it was too late. Two veterans in VTC, but who had skipped out, were both just arrested on their bench warrants. One appeared in court, and was thrilled to have his three year sentence stayed while he attempts to succeed in VTC. The other was not arraigned for the new offense, so hopefully we will see him in the next session. It was too bad, as we had discussed a placement option at Kokopelli Ranch, a very successful recovery program in the South County. I thought one of our former VTC veterans had reoffended, but it turns out that some new bookings on the jail website are not for new offenses, but may be as simple as checking in for work detail. The only four Veterans on the calendar, over and above all the other unscheduled excitement, are doing fine. One is exemplary, and living a normal life, one is doing very well, but needs to find housing for his homeless Veteran girlfriend and her two kids as well as for himself in order to exit his treatment program, one reoffended since being on program, but is still on track; and

one is struggling, mentally, but is still on track. Other Veterans are in the county jail and we are monitoring as many as we can. The issues are that these are our future homeless or at risk Veterans, so we need to get them in touch with VA services while they are sober and grateful for the attention.

State Veteran Homes: At Redding's request, I will take a Georgetown Veteran up for his interview. One of his issues is his oxygen tank. Redding will not take him if he cannot find another method of oxygen delivery. Compressed air yes, but not oxygen tanks.

The Veterans Memorial Building House Council is the one place where all of the Veteran groups meeting together and is the best place to communicate and learn to work together as a team. The meetings are at 7:00 p.m. downstairs in the Veterans Memorial Building.

The Commission might consider inviting Kathi Lishman of Friends of Seniors to speak about the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial downtown across from the court house. A scout would like to work on it for his Eagle Scout project. Apparently, the estimate cost is \$70,000 over and above what the Scout might do. The center piece would be the restoration to a more fitting resting place of the Vietnam Killed In Action bricks that used to be on Main Street. Bud Brown reports that the House Council will financially a portion of the cost for the re-setting of the bricks.

244 Veterans served over about 25 months. About 160 are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. Thank you for supporting MFSG and Only Kindness, Inc.

- Social Media Facebook page for the Commission: Scrivani – 33 people “talking about our page”; 327 people “like our page”; 2 new people “like our page”. Veterans Day coming up please send in articles of interest. Elizabeth Fulgaro, Financial Coach offers a free government-sponsored financial coaching workshop for post 9-11 veterans; this promotion has generated a lot of interest. Bill Scrivani will research other methods and websites to promote this and other veteran service-type services. Bill Schultz heard on the local news radio program KBFK, a spot Volunteers of America spokesperson Becca Bettis and an upcoming “Stand Out” event, more information to be announced.

COMMISSION REPORTS: (Committees reminded to call Secretary ex-officio *two weeks* prior meeting to place items on Commission meeting calendar)

Rules Committee (C-Smith; VC-Winhall) – Continued review of re-drafted by-laws, requesting comments before next meeting and to finalize draft before forwarding to County Counsel, CAO review and recommendation/action to the Board of Supervisors.

Legislative Committee (C-Raffetto; VC-Smith) – Received Prop. 61 for review from Legislative contact, Pete Conaty who requests Commissioner support; requesting comments before next meeting before forwarding recommendation/action to Board of Supervisors.

Transportation Committee (C-Sweatt; VC-Thompson) – No report.

Budget Committee (C-Buchanan; VC-Scrivani) – No report.

Education and Employment Committee (C-Sweatt; VC-Houseworth) – Folsom Lake College veteran services contact person reports that the El Dorado campus plans to increase hours at that campus. Local 3 Operating Engineers initiation fee; they will cover all but \$5 of initiation fee, confirmed that Local 3 performs their own recruiting programs and identifies new hires/veterans.

Real Property Committee (C-Buchanan; VC-Scrivani) – No report.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- *Receive and approve travel claims for August 2016, approved.*

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| Bud Brown | 5.23 |
| Phillip Houseworth | 15.50 |
| Bill Scrivani | 26.77 |
| Bob Sweatt | 66.53 |
| Jack Winhall | 5.12 |
| Total | \$ 119.15 |

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Phillip Houseworth reports that a veteran voiced complaint about VA Choice cards and that the VA response for a return call took 2 ½ month. Lance reported that this is a typical wait/delay time for the VA on the approval for medical services.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

- Meeting date: September 8, 2016, 12:00 pm at the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667. TOT Committee meeting begins at 11:30.

ADJOURNMENT: 13:20 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. Swanson, Ex-Officio